

## COST

Participants who are placed on probation are required to pay a supervision fee. In addition, participants may be required to pay court ordered fines and/or restitution, and/or other program fees.

## VETERANS COURT GOALS

- Enhance public safety
- Reduce costs to society
- Facilitate participant sobriety and long-term recovery
- Improve participant functioning
- Increase compliance with treatment and other court ordered conditions
- Improve access to VA benefits and services
- Improve family relationships and social support connections

## SERVICES OFFERED

- One-on-one judicial monitoring
- Comprehensive treatment for substance use, mental health, family, and other problems
- Random and frequent drug and alcohol testing
- Individualized case management and supervision
- Medication monitoring and social services
- Ready access to county Veterans Service Office and qualifying VA Services
- Peer mentoring from a fellow service member
- Support and encouragement from the treatment court team

## LOCATION OF COURT

The Veterans Court convenes on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month, at 1:30 PM at the Carver County Justice Center located at 604 East 4th Street in Chaska, MN.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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Veterans Treatment Court Coordinator  
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**This is a partnership of:** Minnesota First Judicial District, Carver County Attorney's Office, Chanhassen City Attorney's Office, First District Public Defender's Office, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Minnesota Department of Corrections, Carver County Probation and Court Services, Carver County Veterans Service Office, Carver County Community Social Services, Carver County Board of Commissioners, Carver County Sheriff's Office, and Chaska Police Department.



**MINNESOTA  
JUDICIAL BRANCH**  
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

# Carver County Veterans Treatment Court



Carver County  
Justice Center

604 East 4th Street  
Chaska, MN 55318

[www.co.carver.mn.us](http://www.co.carver.mn.us)

## VETERANS TREATMENT COURT

- Treatment courts are an innovative response by criminal justice advocates who recognize that not all justice-involved persons are best served through the traditional criminal court system.
- Carver County Veterans Treatment Court (CCVTC), established in 2014, is designed to serve current and prior U.S. military service members charged with crimes and struggling with treatable behavioral, mental health and/or substance use problems.
- The multi-disciplinary CCVTC team, works collaboratively to individually tailor the treatment and intensive supervision of participants through a judicially structured program.
- CCVTC is a voluntary program that requires active participation, adherence and commitment on behalf of the participant to successfully complete the program.
- The program takes a minimum of 12 months to complete.
- Graduates of the CCVTC may avoid a criminal record, avoid incarceration, or receive a substantially reduced sentence or disposition as an incentive for completing the program. Some participants may be discharged from probation following graduation.

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Eligibility is evaluated by the CCVTC team on a case-by-case basis. General requirements are:

- Service in the U.S. Armed Forces
- Charged in Carver County with a misdemeanor or greater criminal offense

- Experiencing a treatable behavioral, mental health and/or substance use problem
- Reside in Carver County or in the defined service area

## ENTRY PROCESS

- Defendants interested in participating in the CCVTC are encouraged to contact the Coordinator.
- The CCVTC prosecutor shall pre-screen candidates and inform the defendant or defense counsel of the dispositional option (plea offer) available should the defendant choose to participate in CCVTC.
- Interested candidates must sign releases of information and complete the necessary screenings and assessments to be considered for entry. This may include, but is not limited to, a risk assessment, a mental health assessment, a chemical use assessment, any other assessments or evaluations determined necessary; review of medical records; interviews with the defendant, family members or collateral sources; verification of military service; review of VA eligibility; and review of defendant's criminal history.
- While awaiting a CCVTC eligibility decision, the defendant is expected to attend all court hearings and comply with court conditions on their pending case.
- If the defendant is not eligible to enter the CCVTC, the defendant's case continues with the traditional criminal court process.
- If the CCVTC team deems the defendant eligible for entry and the participant agrees to participate, the participant attends the next CCVTC hearing for formal acceptance into the program. Participants must sign all program forms and agreements prior to admission.

## HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS

- Participants regularly appear on the Veterans Treatment Court calendar for a series of judicial reviews to monitor treatment plan adherence and program compliance.
- Participants are required to comply with their individualized treatment plan, including complying with all recommendations, court orders, supervision requirements, and frequent and random drug and alcohol testing.
- If the participant is eligible for additional services, team members will make the appropriate referral(s).
- The Court uses a variety of incentives to promote compliance and forward progress, and imposes timely sanctions (consequences) to hold participants accountable for non-compliant behavior.
- The disposition and the timing of the disposition depend on the nature of the case and the performance of the defendant.
- Some participants may need more than the 12-month minimum to complete the program.
- Participants who are terminated from the program receive a sentence or disposition for the underlying offense that brought them into the program.

## PEER MENTORING

- Upon entry, the Mentor Coordinator assigns each participant a volunteer veteran mentor to provide on-going support, assistance and guidance to the participant during the CCVTC program.